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WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

BWA meets in Cuba

4

NOBTS sets courses

5

Letters to the editor

9

Sunday School lessons

10

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THE BAPTIST

JUL 28 2000

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Youth Night crowd fills Jackson coliseum

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

More than 6,500 young people filled Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson on the evening of July 14 for the year 2000 edition of Mississippi Baptist Youth Night, a favorite perennial gathering over the decades that has grown into the largest teen event in the state.

"I think teens need this kind of special event to propel them toward living a Christian life. The pressure on young people is so great in our society, and we want to offer them something unique that they don't see every week.

"A good youth ministry will include events like this to help build a strong Christian foundation," said Don Lum, head of the Youth Night in Jackson on the evening of July 14 for the year 2000 Mississippi Baptist Youth Night planning committee and a consultant in the evangelism department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Greg Matte, founder and director of Breakaway Ministries at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas, was the featured speaker. Chris Tomlin, a Christian musician who heads up River Music Ministries in Houston, Texas, was the worship leader. Lauren Enswisler of Byram was a featured soloist.

"You cannot have an encounter with

God and come away the same," Lum pointed out.

A total of 74 decisions for Christ were recorded during Youth Night, including nine professions of faith and four decisions to enter full-time Christian service.

brought his church's youth group to the event each year.

"The people who work at the coliseum — security guards, parking lot attendants, and maintenance workers — often remark on the difference between Mississippi Baptist Youth Night and the other events they have at the coliseum.

"Jesus is that difference," he stressed.

An interesting side story to this year's Youth Night involved Trent White, a member of Wynndale Church, Terry. When Tomlin's bass player missed his connection to Jackson at the Atlanta airport, guitarist White was pressed into service quickly.

"Trent only had about 35 minutes to practice with the band, and he did a great job. We appreciate his filling in at the last minute," Lum said.

White is the son of state Senator Richard White, a member of Wynndale Church who currently serves on the board of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission.

Mississippi Baptist Youth Night 2001 will be held July 27 at the Mississippi Coliseum in

Jackson. Rick Ousley, a Birmingham pastor, will be the featured speaker. The music program has not been finalized, Lum said.

Members of the Youth Night planning committee who served with Lum included Randy Cuchens of First Church, Newton; Jay Fletcher of First Church, Jackson; Rob Futral of Country Woods Church, Jackson; Michael Pierce of First Church, Pearl; and Gary Watts of Wynndale Church, Terry.

FULL HOUSE — Young people from across Mississippi pack the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson on the evening of July 14 for the year 2000 Mississippi Baptist Youth Night celebration. Greg Matte of College Station, Texas, was the featured speaker, and Chris Tomlin of Houston, Texas, was the worship leader. Lauren Enswisler of Byram was a featured soloist. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

About 80 counselors were standing by during the invitation, Lum said, including staffers from Camp Garaywa in Clinton and Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko — both state Baptist campgrounds — as well as adults who volunteered to assist as needed.

"I was pleased, as always, with the level of cooperation among the young people," said Lum, who served as a youth minister for 18 years at First Church, Columbia, and

Miss. CP on strong trend

Mississippi Cooperative Program (CP) gifts to the work of the Lord for the month of June in the amount of \$2,413,731, continued a strong summer giving trend and remained on track to set another annual record, according to Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) in Jackson. The June 2000 CP total was \$242,421, or 9.12%, less than the \$2,656,152 given in the month of May 2000, and \$89,875, or 3.59%, less than the amount given in the same period last year. However, CP gifts for the current fiscal year are \$567,408, or 4.02%, ahead of last year's pace. To date, five of the six months in the current fiscal year have seen CP gifts top \$2.4 million. April was the only exception, when receipts totaled \$1,927,372. Only four of the last 25 months have seen CP receipts dip below the \$2 million mark. CP gifts to date in the current fiscal year, which runs through December, total \$14,621,151. The 2000 CP budget as set by messengers to the 1999 Mississippi Baptist Convention is \$28,083,349.

Mississippi CP helps fund such activities as Super Summer July 24-28 at Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton and Blue Mountain Young Musicians Camp July 24-28 at Baptist-affiliated Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain.

SBC CP sees big jump

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — June receipts for the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program were up 32.41% compared to the same month a year ago, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

For June 2000, SBC CP gifts totaled \$36,593,654.63, or \$8,956,006.13 above June 1999's total of \$27,637,648.50.

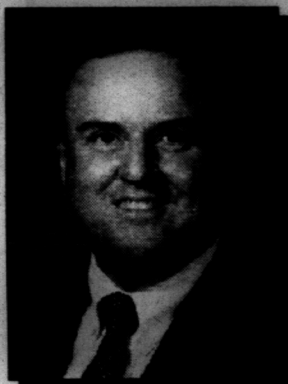
For the year to date, CP giving is 6.45% above the same period in the last Oct. 1-Sept. 30 fiscal year. At the end of June, a total of \$281,816,974.10 had been received, compared to last year's mark of \$264,732,586.56.

For the SBC CP Allocation Budget, the year-to-date total totaled \$134,128,311.42, or \$14,440,504.17 above the \$119,687,807.25.

In designated gifts for June, \$20,944,949.82 was received compared to June 1999's total of \$14,603,670.08, an increase of 43.42% or \$6,341,279.74.

Designated gifts totals for the year were reported at \$147,688,662.68 compared to the same period a year ago at \$138,919,559.58, an increase of 6.31% or \$8,769,103.10.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Coming to a school near you

As if our school systems aren't already overburdened with political meddling and crusading activists for causes that have nothing to do with education, another serious threat could be looming just over the horizon.

The Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) has announced that it is targeting schools in the South, which apparently have not picked up on the homosexual education agenda as swiftly as activists would like.

To help that process along, GLSEN has formed a Leadership Training Institute in Maryland that recently "graduated" 15 homosexual activists from six southern states who, it is assumed, will return to their home states and lobby for homosexual education classes from kindergarten through senior high school.

The institute "is a critical part of the work to end homophobia in Southern schools," according to a GLSEN news release which also observes, "Change in Southern schools has come slowly."

GLSEN's goal is to convince schools across the country to adopt homosexual education classes and to make the classes as routine as physical education or health courses.

Just what is the GLSEN education agenda? A revealing look comes from a GLSEN-sponsored conference held March 25 at Tufts University in Medford, Mass. The conference is detailed on The Massachusetts News web site (www.mass-news.com).

In addition to homosexual teachers/activists and other adult pro-homosexual attendees, teenagers and younger children were bussed in from their home school districts.

In a session designed specifically for young people entitled, *What They Didn't Tell You About Queer Sex & Sexuality In Health Class: A Workshop For Youth Only*, Ages 14-21, three employees of the

Massachusetts Department of Education explained aberrant sexual practices for the 20 children in attendance and coaxed them into talking about their own sexuality.

The details of the session, as described in The Massachusetts News account, are simply too sickening to describe in these pages — and that's not all.

An enormous amount of very disturbing material, most of it aimed at children, was distributed at the conference. Much of it encourages young children to become actively engaged in homosexual activities. The Sidney Borum Community Health Center table was giving out a cassette-sized 'pocket sex' kit, which included two condoms, two antiseptic 'moist' towelettes, and six bandages, which were for 'when the sex got really rough,' according to the high school-aged volunteer behind the desk," The Massachusetts News reported.

When parents complained to the state Education Commissioner David Driscoll, they were ignored. When they took their concerns to Governor Paul Cellucci, they were curtly turned away without a hearing.

Why? That's easy to explain. The Tufts conference was co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Education and the Governor's Office, which sets aside \$1.5 million of taxpayer money each year for something called the Governor's Commission for Gay and Lesbian Youth.

It is not alarmist to observe that such a thing could happen here in Mississippi. What was considered perverse just a few years ago in our state is now socially accept-



able and, in many cases, has been sanctioned by our courts and political leaders.

That's because Christians in Mississippi — and particularly Southern Baptists — have not banded together to make our unified voice heard above the yells of "homophobe" and "hate monger" that are hurled at us.

While we work to bring sinners — all sinners — to the One who can redeem them no matter the sin, we must also fight the good fight for our children, our schools, our country, and our way of life.

It's late, but it's never too late to take a stand for what we know to be right. Let us pray, let us be vigilant, and let us be heard.

GUEST OPINION:

On-site casino ministry: right or wrong?

By Michael Weeks, pastor
Pleasant Hill Church, Mt. Olive

I recently checked out a MissionsUSA video (Vol. 14, Num. 1) from the local association office. MissionsUSA is a product of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention, headquartered in Atlanta.

This was a good video except for Money, Morality, and Ministry, a segment I found disturbing. While it presented excellent information regarding the negative impact of casino gambling and addiction, the second portion of the segment dealt with ministry inside casinos.

I take issue with this idea of on-site ministry in casinos. First of all, the notion of sending people into a casino for ministry is compromising. Consider the former preacher in the video who is now a casino owner — are we as Southern Baptists lifting up the ownership of casinos as being consistent with the Christian life? Has our denomination forgotten what Paul said in Rom. 12: "...and do not be conformed to this world?"

Secondly, what type of visible witness does a person have when he/she goes into a casino? It's the same as a church member walking into a local bar.

On numerous occasions I

have had unchurched people make the comment that they do not attend church because of the hypocrites in the church. Maybe that's because they were sitting on a bar stool on Saturday night next to a Sunday morning church-goer. First Thessalonians says, "Abstain from all appearance of evil." Perception is everything!

Finally, please consider the legal ramifications of going to casinos. For example, a church has a couples Sunday School class party at one of the casinos and "Jake" (fictitious name) attends with his wife. They have a meal together then Jake decides to experiment with gambling. He has never been in a casino before this church-sponsored event.

The next week, he decides to

return and gamble. Over a short period of time Jake becomes a gambling addict. He loses all of his money, his family, his job, etc. He is at the bottom.

Then Jake begins to think about how he got into this mess. He recalls the first time he entered a casino was at a church-sponsored event. He gets an attorney and sues the church for negligence. His argument is that his addiction would have never begun if the church had not sponsored the event at the casino.

At a business administrators conference, an attorney spoke concerning churches and litigation. He stated that the American Bar Association, at their annual meeting, held a conference on how to successfully sue churches. The church is

not immune from legal action.

By no means do I want to convey that casino employees and gamblers do not need ministry. They need it just as much as the person sitting in the pew on Sunday. However, this ministry can be done off-site, away from the casinos.

While the sinner needs our ministry, the sinful establishment does not deserve our endorsement by our presence. The gambler is distracted by the gambling machines. Employees are working under very stressful conditions and their job is to make money for the casino. They need an environment where they can worship and pray without the distractions.

Non-believers view Christians as a fragmented group who compromise when it is convenient. Many Christians have adopted a cultural Christianity which conforms to the world's view of faith.

Before casino gambling ever became an issue in Mississippi, a casino executive made a profound statement. He said casino gambling would come to Mississippi because Christians have adopted a cultural Christianity instead of an authentic biblical faith.

Was he right?

NAMB workers bearing witness in Chicago

CHICAGO (BP) — On a second-story deck in the rear of a ministry center in central Chicago, the North American Mission Board's (NAMB) chief development officer pried up rotting floor boards with a crowbar. A missionary mobilization associate preached the gospel on a street corner in another part of town.

On sidewalks and a public park, an assistant video producer shared her faith as she passed out free bottles of water and gospel-imprinted Frisbee-style flying discs.

Those were just some of the activities of a group of 47 NAMB employees and their families who traveled to Chicago to participate in ministry efforts before and during the July 8 SearchLight evangelistic emphasis.

The event is one of the primary elements in Chicago of Strategic Focus Cities, an effort to focus Southern Baptist resources and volunteers on sharing the gospel and planting churches in two major cities each year.

Like all of the nearly 1,500 out-of-town volunteers participating in Christ July 8 as part of the SearchLight evangelism effort. In the background, fellow team member Mark Martin of Gatlinburg, Tenn., shares with another woman. The team was working with the nearby Mt. Carmel Ridge Missionary Baptist Church in south Chicago. (BP photo by James Dotson)

work and proclaim their faith in ways that often stretched their normal patterns of behavior.

"I live a sheltered life, and to come here just to see just how the world really is — it was just very eye-opening to see that this is such a mission field,"

said Jill Stephens, a secretary in NAMB's missionary personnel unit. "It makes me want to be more of an on-mission Christian even in my home in Buford [Ga.]," she said.

It is that sort of engagement with evangelistic efforts nationwide that is at the source of NAMB's policy that all of its employees participate in a five-day mission project each year.

The agency organized the Chicago trip for employees most of whom rode up on a tour bus — because of the importance of Strategic Focus Cities in the agency's effort to help churches reach the United States and Canada with the good news of Jesus Christ.

The Chicago Grace Place, a ministry center in the Humboldt Park neighborhood of Chicago, was a primary focus for the NAMB team's efforts.

They spent several days working to rehab the building's interior, do demolition work on a large covered deck on the rear of the building in preparation for rebuilding, and sharing Christ in the community.

The day before SearchLight, some of the NAMB employees worked

with a block party at Northside Church, which with only a few remaining members was able to demonstrate to its community that it still hoped to make an impact in the neighborhood.

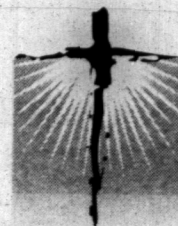
Others participated in street preaching and associated

evangelism efforts, handed out free water and Snapple drinks to promote a new church start, and shared their faith on the beaches of Lake Michigan while passing out flying discs imprinted with the gospel.

Randy Wood, the missionary mobilization associate and street preacher, said he had the opportunity to lead several individuals to Christ, including a young man named Ben.

"It was almost as though he had never heard of any good news; it was fresh," Wood said, adding that others also appeared to be hearing the gospel for the first time.

"There have been several individuals who have received the Word pretty gladly, but there was no real point of reference," he said.



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THE
SECOND
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ACLU targets monument

FRANKFORT, Ky. (BP) — A lawsuit to block a 7-foot-tall Ten Commandments monument from the Kentucky capitol grounds has been filed by the American Civil Liberties Union. The July 10 ACLU filing takes aim at a resolution passed by the Kentucky legislature slated to take effect July 15 to permanently display the monument just behind the capitol building in Frankfort.

Kentucky has been a Ten Commandments battleground since 1980, when the U.S. Supreme Court's *Stone v. Graham* decision invalidated state legislation requiring Ten Commandments postings in public schools.

The legislation, Senate Joint Resolution 57, calls for the Ten Commandment monument's placement at the capitol "in order to remind Kentuckians of the Biblical foundations of the laws of the Commonwealth." The ACLU news release called the legislative action a violation of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which forbids government from endorsing or favoring religion. The suit seeks an order to prevent the monument's placement at the statehouse.

In a May 5 ruling on an ACLU lawsuit, U.S. District Judge Jennifer Coffman ordered Ten Commandments displays removed from public sites in three southeastern Kentucky counties. The counties didn't take the documents down until May 17. The U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati refused to grant a stay of Coffman's ruling on May 18.

Empty frames were put up in Harlan County schools in response to Coffman's ruling, which also affected Ten Commandments displays in the courthouses of McCreary and Pulaski counties.

Looking back

10 years ago

The Mississippi Baptist Student Union dispatches ten students and two directors to Russia to help renovate a turn-of-the-century Baptist church that was closed and converted to a factory in 1933. Russian Baptists have settled on a name for the church: Temple of the Gospel.

20 years ago

Trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board appoint Mississippian and foreign missionary Lewis I. Myers Jr. to head up a new program development office that will coordinate all special overseas programs of the board.

50 years ago

Attendance for revival services at First Church, Vicksburg, is "unusually large" to hear the preaching of E.F. Sherburd, pastor of Baptist Tabernacle in Whangarei, New Zealand. Sherburd is in the U.S. to attend the upcoming meetings of the Baptist World Alliance.

Summer worker killed in S.A. crash

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (BP) — A Georgia university student helping to build a church in Botswana was killed July 1 when the van in which he was riding veered off a road to avoid hitting two donkeys.

Michael Kristopher Tuck, 22, of Norcross, Ga., was a member of Rehoboth Church, Tucker, Ga. He was a student at Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville, Ga.

Tuck was in South Africa as a Campus Outreach missionary. He was one of several college students from Georgia and North Carolina who made the journey. Several of those students were injured in the crash that took Tuck's life.

Tuck, a mass communication major, had recently considered changing his major to something more ministry related, according to his parents, Michael and Elaine Tuck.

"He felt that it was his call to tell the world about what God had done for him," Michael Tuck said.

Baptist leaders meet with Cuban dictator

HAVANA (BP and local reports) — World Baptist leaders met with Cuban President Fidel Castro in a two-hour private meeting one day after Baptist World Alliance (BWA) General Council members adopted a resolution encouraging "initiatives to ease sanctions on food and medicine affecting the people of Cuba."

The meeting with the longtime dictator came on the final day of the BWA's July 3-8 General Council meeting in Havana. Meeting with the Cuban leader were BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz, new BWA President Billy Kim of Korea, and immediate past BWA President Nilson Fanini of Brazil, as well as leaders of Cuba's four Baptist conventions.

The BWA, founded in 1905, is a global umbrella organization of Baptists. It represents more than 43 million baptized believers in 110 nations. The early July annual council meeting and related events attracted more than 400 international participants from 60 countries.

The BWA event was the first-ever international Baptist gathering held in the socialist nation of Cuba. The meeting featured simultaneous evangelistic services in 40 Cuban Baptist churches. A public evangelism rally attended by more than 3,000 people reportedly was the first such Baptist event since Castro came to power in 1959.

Lotz said the July 8 meeting with Castro, the unquestioned dictator of Cuba, signals the Cuban government's growing recognition of Baptists' influence as the largest evangelical group in Cuba.

Castro "understands religion can play a significant role in the life of people, in

Cuban society, and even in helping international relations," Lotz said.

Emphasizing that BWA participants "were not here to affirm any ideology or government, but to affirm the people of Cuba," Lotz said the resolution opposing economic boycotts recognizes that "the Cuban people are the ones suffering from the boycott." Withholding food and medicine from people in need "should not be used as a form of government policy," he insisted.

Lotz described conversations with government leaders as a form of "pre-evangelism." Noting that Baptist leaders were able to tell Castro that "Baptists believe in the separation of church and state and are concerned about the spiritual conversion of people," the BWA leader added, "It's much better to talk than to snipe at one another."

Lotz said the BWA meeting in Havana and the dialogue with Castro "give credibility and visibility

to Cuban Baptists, which is very significant for a minority movement." Cuban Baptists have more than 400 congregations and 900 mission sites, with a total of 38,000 baptized believers in a nation of 10.8 million people.

BWA President Kim said the BWA General Council meeting, which is held in a different nation each year, helped Cuban Baptists "strengthen their profile among their people because they have been under less freedom for the past 40 years."



HISTORIC MEETING — Baptist World Alliance leaders visit with Cuban President Fidel Castro during a July 8 meeting in Havana. Meeting participants included (left to right) BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz, immediate past BWA President Nilson Fanini of Brazil, Castro, and new BWA President Billy Kim of Korea as well as leaders of Cuba's four Baptist conventions. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

Cuban Baptists celebrate first rallies in 40 years

HAVANA (BP) — Celebrating their first public evangelistic rallies in more than 40 years, Cuban Baptists packed into two evening ser-

vices held in conjunction with the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) General Council's July 3-8 meeting in Havana.

"This is an historic event for

the Cuban people," declared Victor Gonzales, general secretary of the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba. "This is the first time that all the Cuban pastors, seminaries, and missionaries are together in one meeting. It is the first time we have celebrated open meetings since revolution times in the past 41 years."

Baptists in Cuba are organized into four conventions with a total of 418 churches and 901 mission sites. With approximately 38,000 baptized believers, Baptists are the largest evangelical group in Cuba.

The two rallies, held at "Kid Chocolate" Sports Arena in Havana, attracted up to 3,000 people each evening. The events featured a variety of Cuban musical groups, pageantry and sermons by BWA President Billy Kim of Korea and immediate past BWA President Nilson Fanini of Brazil. General Council members also spoke in 40 evangelistic services held in area churches.

"It's an impact in all of Cuba, especially the people of Havana, to know that all Cuban Baptists are working to win Cuba for Christ," Gonzales noted. "I praise the Lord that this has been a great, great dream come true."

BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz said the organization's meeting in Cuba has helped strengthen "bonds of friendship, partnership and fellowship."

"We have come to listen to

our brothers and sisters in Cuba," he said.

"We've come to give solidarity to our brothers and sisters here and we have come to worship with them," Lotz stressed.

Kim said the gathering of 400 international participants from 60 countries will "help Cuban Baptists strengthen their profile among their people because they have been under less freedom for the past 40 years."

Theo Angelov, general secretary of the European Baptist Federation in Sofia, Bulgaria, compared Cuba's political and economic conditions to life in Bulgaria before the fall of communism a decade ago.

"Coming from such a country which was 50 years under communism, I am aware of the significance of such a gathering for the people of Cuba," Angelov noted.

He said the council's meeting was "a symbol of change, unity and of hope for the future."

Citing gradual changes in Cuba since the collapse of the former Soviet Union in 1991, Angelov added, "Cuba cannot survive alone, so changes are inevitable. The problem will be what will happen."

"From our experience in Europe, freedom does not always bring better times but changes for which we are not prepared. I'm concerned for the future in Cuba as well as countries in Eastern Europe and many others."

Benefit golf tourney set for Sept. 14-15

By Carl M. White, pastor
Highland Church, Meridian

The fourth annual Retired Ministers Benefit Golf Tournament has been set for Sept. 14-15 at the Bay Pointe Country Club in Brandon, according to Andy Holder, organizer of the event and a member of Raymond Road Church, Jackson.

Sponsored by Raymond Road Church and Community Bank, the tournament raises funds to aid over 1,000 retired Baptist ministers, missionaries, and their widows who do not have adequate retirement income.

Funds raised during the tournament are administered through the Adopt-A-Retired Minister program of the Annuity

Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, headquartered in Dallas.

The Annuity Board maintains a special fund for Mississippi retirees in need. Since the tournament began in 1997, over \$26,000 has been raised for the Mississippi fund.

The tourney is an 18-hole, four-person select event. Cost is \$65 per player, or \$60 per person for

a four-person team. There will be first, second, and third place prizes; prizes for closest to the pin on par three holes; and a hole-in-one prize.

For more information, contact Holder at 5314 Castlewood Circle, Jackson, MS 39212. Telephone: (601) 373-9520. In addition, Richard Winkler can be contacted at 250 Western Hills Drive, Jackson, MS 39212. Telephone: (601) 346-0027.



THROWING IN THE TOWEL — Staffers from the evangelism department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board present a golf towel with the Mississippi Baptist logo to Andy Holder (second from right), organizer of the annual Retired Ministers Benefit Golf relief program. Joining Holder are (from left) Don Lum, Ed Deuschle, Patsy Bozeman, and Sonny Adkins. (Photo by Carl M. White)

Radio evangelism effort meeting opposition

WASHINGTON (BP) — Hundreds of churches and Christian ministries are seeking permission to share the Gospel of Jesus via radio in their local communities, but their efforts may prove fruitless in the face of opposition from Congress and broadcast organizations.

More than 750 applicants from 10 states and the District of Columbia sought low-power FM radio licenses in the new program's first round of filing completed in June, according to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Of those, nearly half were churches or religious organizations, with many of those evangelical Christian in nature, according to an estimate by a Washington organization that has assisted some low-power applicants.

It was the first of five filing periods set by the FCC with a goal of licensing 1,000 new low-power FM stations. Each station, which would not exceed 100 watts, would be able to broadcast to an area no larger than a radius of about three and a half miles. While many churches and Christian ministries see the FCC's plan as a low-cost opportunity for them, others — including the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) — see a danger. NRB, as well as the National Association of Broadcasters, opposes the program because of its potential for interfering with the signals of established stations.

There are conflicting studies on the poten-

tial for interference. With interference raised as a concern, members of Congress have acted to eliminate or limit the FCC's plan.

The House of Representatives adopted in April a bill that would have the effect of sharply reducing the number of licensees and would require the FCC to establish a pilot program to test whether low-power stations will interfere with existing FM stations. A Senate version would effectively eliminate the FCC program.

Meanwhile, the FCC plans to accept applications in late August from the next group of states, and interested Christians hope to extend the proclamation of the Bible to other communities.

The start-up cost for a low-power station would be about \$10,000 to \$12,000 on the low end increasing to \$20,000 to \$25,000 on the high end.

William Crosby, pastor of First Church, Mansfield, La., said his congregation "would be disappointed" if it did not receive a license. Louisiana was one of the 10 states in the first filing period, and First Church, which has not worked with AmGrace, was one of 66 applicants from the state.

Mansfield, a town of about 5,000 in the northwest part of the state, does not have a radio station, Crosby said. "We wanted basically to share sacred music, sermons, devotions with people in the area," and promote the events of First Church and other churches, Crosby said.

First Church, which averages about 250 in Sunday morning attendance, does not expect to have a problem in paying the \$20,000 it estimates will be needed to start the station, Crosby said.

There were 769 applicants in the first filing period that closed in early June. Forty-seven percent of those were churches or religious groups, according to an analysis by the Media Access Project published in The New York Times. Among the churches were several Baptist congregations and numerous Calvary Chapels.

The first group of applicants came from not only the District of Columbia and Louisiana but Alaska, California, Georgia, Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, and Utah. In addition to churches and religious groups, the diverse list of applicants included Louisiana College, a Baptist school in Pineville, La.; the Georgia Department of Transportation; the Rock 'n Roll Preservation Society, Newport Beach, Calif.; the Southern Utah Air Museum, Washington, Utah; and the Crisis Pregnancy Help Center, Slidell, La.

The group of applicants eligible to file next will be from Connecticut, Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Hampshire, Virginia, Wyoming, and Puerto Rico. The dates of the filing period, which will begin at the end of August, will be announced by the FCC in late July.



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. *(I have sinned.)*
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. *(I repent.)*
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. *(I believe in Jesus.)*
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. *(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)*

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

SO YOU WANT TO BE A MILLIONAIRE

The TV show, Who Wants to be a Millionaire, has had success beyond anyone's wildest imagination. If surveys are correct, virtually everyone in the population has seen the show, or at least parts of it. Folks tune in to watch with hope and anticipation as someone from their state or city is scheduled to be playing for a million dollars. From the show has come the "Regis" look and the often-repeated phrase, "Is that your final answer?"

While many have wondered and discussed the various reasons for the show's success, I suppose one common thread that ties most of us into a show like this is that if someone were to ask us if we wanted to be a millionaire our answer would be, "Yes!" I also suppose that most of us, if we were to reach that million-dollar plateau, would probably be like the fellow who was shipwrecked. He was stranded for 20 years on an island and no one knew whether he was alive or dead. Finally, after two decades, he was rescued. After coming back to civilization he was told that he was worth 20 million dollars! Ecstatic, he went to a phone to proclaim that he was alive and back, and as he was rejoicing over his wealth he heard the operator on the line say, "Your three minutes are up, please deposit three million dollars."

Money is relative, but what would you do if you were a millionaire? In a survey and study that was done by Modern Maturity magazine, July 2000 edition, people who do have wealth were asked what brought real satisfaction



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

to their life. The number one response given by the millionaires was related to the joy of socializing with their children and grandchildren. More than anything else they loved to watch their grandkids play sports. Isn't that wonderfully interesting? People with lots of money find that personal relationships are the most important things in life. The number two most important activity was closely related to number one, and that was that they enjoyed entertaining and having involvement with close friends.

I found the results of the study to be fascinating because they are so closely parallel to what the Scriptures clearly teach. For one thing, the essence of life is not "stuff," but "folks." It was Jesus who said, "A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of things which he possesseth."

Some years ago a friend who had become very successful in business, lost his wife and children through divorce. One afternoon I sat in his house, the house that at one time had been their dream home with all of the fine and beautiful furnishings they had always wanted. As we sat there in the dusky dark he said, "All of this 'stuff' just sits here silently mocking me."

The second important truth

to remember is that the most meaningful aspects of life often cost very little. Spending the time to watch a child play ball, or to walk through the zoo, or to just hang out a little while, is not very expensive. While it cost very little money, it does cost time. Whether spending that time with your mate,

friends, or children, it is well worth the investment.

One last wonderful truth to remember is that, generally speaking, the test of life is not how much you accumulate but how and where you contribute. Think about it. When Jesus died on the cross there was little or nothing that people could point to and say, "Look at all that he had accumulated." Instead, every one of us could recognize that he made the supreme contribution so that all of us might be saved. As the Scripture says, "Thanks be unto God for this unspeakable gift," not "for this unspeakable accumulation."

"For God so loved the world that he gave..." Amen.

NOBTS classes offered in Miss.

New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) will offer classes in the undergraduate program and the certificate program beginning Aug. 21 at Broadmoor Church, Madison. The adult non-traditional classes are open to all people regardless of their educational background, according to Julius Thompson, director of the NOBTS Broadmoor Extension Center.

For the Associates in Christian Ministry program the following classes are offered each Monday:

- **Introduction to Christian Education**, taught by Marcus Peagler at 1 p.m. Peagler is director of discipleship and family ministry for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

- **Evangelism/Missions**, taught by Jim Burnett at 4 p.m. Burnett is pastor of Raymond Road Church, Jackson.

- **Personal Spiritual Development**, taught by Julius Thompson at 12 noon. Thompson is the retired former director of church administration/pastoral ministries at MBCB.

- **The Gospel of John**, taught by Dennis Johnsey at 7 p.m. Johnsey is pastor of Broadmoor Church, Madison.

The Bible Teaching Certificate program will have one class offering in the first term and one class offering in the second term — both beginning at 7:00 pm.

The first term class, held each Monday from Aug. 21 - Oct. 9, is Introduction to the Old Testament Study: The Writings, taught by Keith Gordon, consultant in the MBCB church administration and pastoral ministries department.

The second term class, from Oct. 16 - Dec. 11, is Introduction to the New Testament: The Life and Letters of Paul, taught by Thompson.

Tuition for each class in the certificate program is \$75. In addition, there is a one-time registration fee of \$25. A limited number of scholarships are available for first time students.

Thompson said there are also classes being offered in other regions of the state, such as Meridian, Hernando, Cleveland, Booneville, Columbus, Columbia, and Purvis.

For more information on NOBTS course offerings around the state, contact the NOBTS College of Undergraduate Studies, 3939 Gentilly Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70126-4858. Telephone: (800) 662-8701. World Wide Web: <http://www.nobts.edu>

For more information on the NOBTS Jackson Extension Center, contact Thompson at 117 Napa Valley Circle, Madison, MS 39110. Telephone: (601) 856-4341.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Mike Ramage, pastor of Parkway Church, Hernando, presented a Proclamation to Connie Ray in honor of her late husband George Ray, naming the church's annual barbecue the George L. Ray Memorial Barbecue. George Ray was a deacon at Parkway until his death in 1996.



Ray and Ramage



Emelda Jackson was recently honored for 55 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School at Bethel Church, Poplarville. Pictured are Jackson (center); Alicia Kimball, Sunday School director (left); and Richard Bailey, pastor (right).



The Collins

Kent Collins was recently ordained as deacon at Southside Church, Aberdeen. Three generations of men in the Collins family have served as deacon at Southside Church. Pictured (from left) are George Collins Jr., Kent Collins, and George Collins Sr. Joel Brister is pastor.

Sara Fortenberry, a member of Trinity Church, Laurel, has recently surrendered to the music ministry. She is available to share God's word through song. Her address is P.O. Box 8000 Dr. 8251, Laurel, MS 39441 or call (601) 428-7884.



Fortenberry

JUST FOR THE RECORD

Ivan Parker of Nashville, Tenn., will be in concert at Briar Hill Church, Florence, on July 27 at 7 p.m. For more information, call the church at (601) 845-6843.

Farmhaven Church, Canton, will observe Sunday Night on Monday Night, 7 p.m., July 31, with Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church, Jackson, as guest speaker. Refreshments will be provided following the service. Charles Gentry is pastor.

Center Hill Church, Hamilton, held a note burning service on June 4 for renovation of its sanctuary. Pictured are Henry Adams, chairman of deacons; James Towery, pastor; and Donnie Irwin, chairman of building committee.



Note burning at Center Hill Church, Hamilton

Southside Church, Aberdeen, will host a concert featuring Paid In Full and the Heartmen Quartet, July 29 at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (662) 369-2622 or 369-4674.

evening meal. Clark Stewart will be the speaker for the 7 p.m. general session. For more information, call (662) 327-0495.

For the Sake of Zion Ministries is sponsoring a Southeast Mississippi Bible Prophecy Conference at First Church, Stonewall, on July 27. Randall Creel, evangelist, and Mike Routon, pastor, will be the speakers for the 2:30 p.m. session, followed by an

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VBS dates

Euclatubba, Saltillo: July 24-28; 6:30 p.m.; youth group will also have a revival at this time with guest speakers; Johnny Cox, youth minister; Scott Witcher, pastor.

Gunter Road, Florence: July 23-26; Sunday, 5:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 6 p.m.; Gene Jordan, pastor, VBS director.



Sylvarena Church, Raleigh, installed Hueston Adkins as pastor emeritus on June 7. Adkins was ordained by the Sylvarena church in 1962 and served as pastor until 1968. After serving three other Mississippi churches as pastor, Adkins returned to Sylvarena and served again as pastor from 1994 to 1999. Adkins and his wife Amy are pictured with the framed copy of the resolution.

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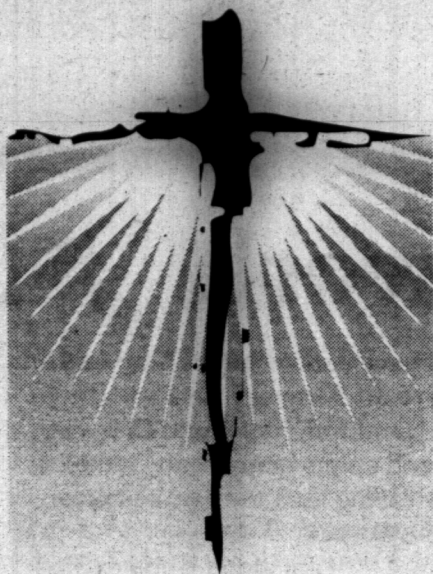


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MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST

Partnership Missions

SUMMER QUARTER 2000



VOL. II, NO. II

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Key to success wouldn't turn in door

By Tim Nicholas
MBCB Broadcast Services

PURPOSE:
TO PROVIDE AN
OPPORTUNITY FOR
VOLUNTEERS
TO USE THEIR SKILLS
TO WITNESS FOR CHRIST
THROUGH MISSION
PARTNERSHIPS.

Although the key wouldn't turn in a door at the hotel in the city of Veleka Mehalovka, it became the key to a successful mission trip to Ukraine.

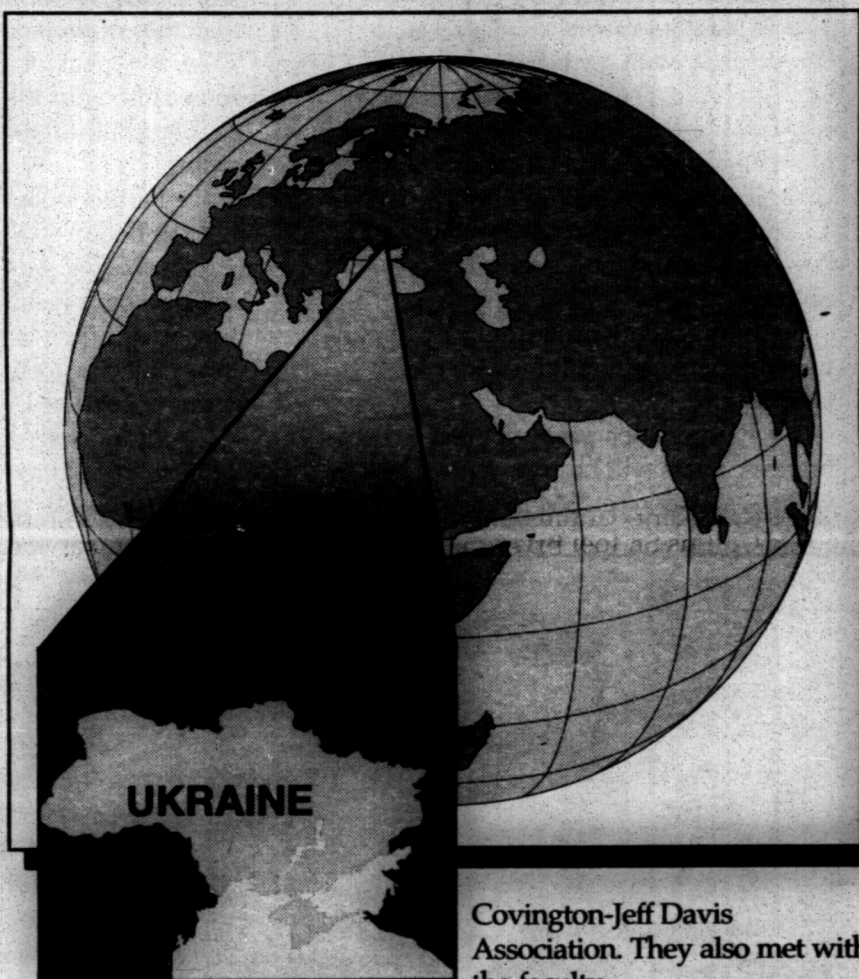
Trip coordinator Bruce Jolly said he anticipated visits to the local school and hospital, but was told by the church planter that he did not think this was possible.

One evening, the door to a team translator's hotel door became stuck. A man in a jogging suit offered to help. He was married to a hotel employee and was an assistant to the mayor.

"Come see me," he said. The next morning, all five team members, two translators, and Alexai, the church planter working in Veleka Mehalovka, presented the man with a Bible. They explained their problem.

One phone call from the administrator, and the group had open access to the schools and hospital.

"We went into both schools,



giving out New Testaments and Gospel tracts, and shared our testimony in classrooms," said Jolly, director of missions for

Covington-Jeff Davis Association. They also met with the faculty.

The faculty of one school invited the team back to a dinner at the school where the group members shared their

Christian testimony. "They talked about themselves and asked questions," said Jolly.

The group rented a cafe and showed the Jesus film at night. The last two nights they averaged more than 50 participants a night.

The group also held Gospel suppers. Alexai would enlist a family to cook a supper, paid for by partnership missions gifts. At supper the group shared the Gospel.

On Sunday morning at a worship service, three came for repentance.

"This was such a startling result of God's people praying," said Jolly. "The key that wouldn't open that hotel room was the key that opened the hospital and the schools."

One month after the group's May trip, the new congregation was averaging 30 each Sunday.

Other members of the team were Norman Bailey, Hattiesburg; Pat Sullivan, Mt. Olive; Joan Tyler, Collins; and Danny Adams, pastor of Lone Star Church, Covington County.

Mississippi students aid children's camps



Children at Baptist camp in Ukraine enjoy a moment of free time between activities.

Children's Camp in Odessa, Ukraine, affords a unique opportunity to present the Gospel to 500 campers. Myra Gillis of Cleary Church, Florence, will be leading a team of four Mississippi College students to invest four weeks in Ukraine this summer. These students include Joel Ainsworth, Pearl; John P. Dove, Florence; Leah Dedeaux, Jackson; and Carley Platt, Columbus.

The students will be engaged in Bible studies, crafts, sports, and many opportunities for Bible storying. Campers come to repentance each year through such camp experiences. Pray for this Children's Camp team as they give their summer through Partnership Missions.

(photo by Tim Nicholas)

Please Note

Partnership Missions Celebration

First Baptist Church
Jackson, November 10
Baptist Building
November 11
2000

On mission — God at work

*"Many children in Honduras had their first mini-physical because medical and dental teams are going to the schools with their ministry."
— Paul Harrell*

Partnership Missions is the focus of many associations and churches in our state. Some are linked directly church to church or association to association. Others are linked to specific projects. Some churches and associations are sending volunteers or financial and prayer support.

What a wonderful feeling to be involved in a partnership — whether it be a marriage partnership, a business partnership or a partnership between agencies or governments seeking to help people. In Philippians 1:3-7a, the apostle Paul states "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart" (NIV).

As we embark on the journey of partnership there are five things we can expect:

- Partnerships produce great remembrances. There will be experiences, individuals, situations etched in your mind

that will be with you the rest of your life.

- Partnerships demand constant prayer. When you are prayed up, more doors of ministry will open to you than you expected. When others pray for volunteers, the power of God will be active in their lives.

- Partnerships stimulate great emotions. Situations, circumstances, and people evoke emotional responses. Sometimes it is disappointment, discouragement, fear, maybe even anger, but there will be no greater emotion than the emotion of joy. There is a great joy that comes into your life for having been faithful to God's calling.

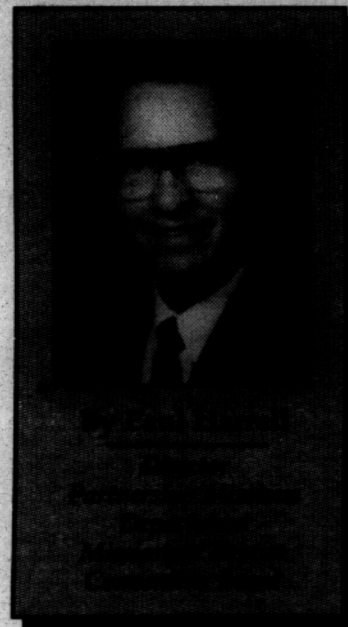
- Partnerships establish great bonds — a partnership of sharing the Gospel. It will be a partnership that only eternity can explain — "from this day forth until the return of our Lord."

- Partnerships produce for you the right feelings. I have a feeling of satisfaction, of accomplishment, of obedience

because I have done what the Lord laid on my heart to do. Because I have your/my Ukraine, Honduras, Maryland/Delaware brothers and sisters in my heart — there is no higher calling than the partnership of sharing the Gospel.

I am grateful and excited for all the volunteers that have gone and are yet to go on mission projects and ministries this year. Many children in Honduras had their first mini-physical because medical and dental teams went to the schools with their ministry. Backyard Bible Clubs and Vacation Bible Schools are being conducted in Maryland/Delaware. Nine new churches are being established in Ukraine. All of these and other ministries are possible because volunteers have a desire to be on partnership in sharing the Gospel. If God has laid on your heart the desire

to be involved, please call the Partnership Missions Department at (800) 748-1651, ext. 398, and allow us to assist you in fulfilling that desire.



"Chain of Love" links to bring healing to young boy in Honduras

By Gene Baker, pharmacist
Charleston, Tenn.

It was 2:30 p.m. when the phone rang. As I answered with pen in hand, I assumed it would be the usual doctor calling in a prescription. However, it was an international call. I had just returned from Honduras where our Tennessee Convention Partnership team had worked at a village called Aguanqueterique, but my wife, Elaine, had stayed over to visit some Honduran friends in Tegucigalpa.

My wife was at Social Hospital in Tegucigalpa visiting the friend of a friend who had a five-year-old boy with a brain tumor. He lay on a bare mattress in a crib in the children's ward with eight or 10 beds but no other furniture or equipment. The mother slept on the floor beside her son.

The Honduran doctors had properly diagnosed the boy's condition, but would not even consider operating. His treatment consisted of liquid pain reliever.

So I began checking possibilities for treatment in the United States. Dr. Young, who had gone with us to Honduras, was in the graduating class with the most prominent neurosurgical group in our city. He made a phone call to set up an appointment with Dr. Strait, a brain surgeon. Hearing the facts of the case, Dr. Strait agreed to see little Edis.

Through the help of the "Chain of Love" ministry, a visa and transportation was arranged for Edis and his mother to come to a Chattanooga hospital. The hospital had agreed to take the case as a training exercise for the University of Tennessee Medical School. The surgery was done, and after eight weeks Edis was alive and well and ready to return to Honduras.

I saw Edis again last year while in Tegucigalpa on a mission trip. He is symptom-free, in school making excellent grades, and still has the love for pizza he acquired while here.

God keeps on performing miracles. Gloria a Dios!



Hilary Palmer (left) of Baldwyn, a student at Mississippi University for Women, and Josh Hamblin of Blue Springs, a student at Northeast Mississippi Community College, work in a boutique operated by Seventh Baptist Church in Baltimore. The pair was among about 100 Mississippi Baptist college students who gave their spring break to work in the Partnership states of Maryland and Delaware giving concerts, refurbishing churches, and witnessing. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)



Human need evident after hurricane

By Martha C. Morris, Ph.D., RN, faculty, William Carey College School of Nursing, and member of Temple Church, Hattiesburg

The village of La Avispa, Honduras, was wiped out when 20 feet of water following Hurricane Mitch flowed through the valley. The villagers fled to the mountains and survived for three days in caves with no food.

Not one life was lost, but all their possessions were destroyed.

Today, three rebuilt homes and several partial shells of homes are all that is left of the original village. The remaining people have moved to higher ground — some to homes built by the Red Cross. Many of the new homes are not habitable because of problems with sewer systems and leaky roofs.

Human need was evident as our mission/medical team moved into the area. Adobe huts with dirt floors were home to parents, many children, and their animals. This type of lifestyle leads to many medical problems such as parasites, which were widely evident. Malnutrition is also common among the large number of children in each family.

With God's help and good leadership, our team was able to assist with many medical and dental needs. One of our last

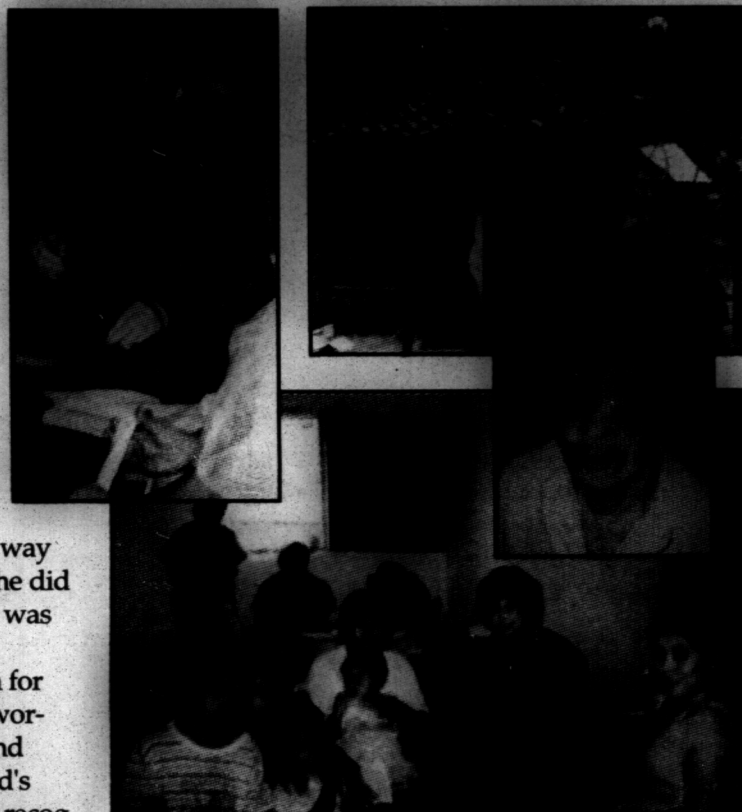
From treating a 20-year leg injury (top left), to trying to save the remaining eye of a man (middle right), to riding an entire family of parasites (bottom), a medical-dental mission team adds the Gospel to all prescriptions for life improvement.

A typical house, like those wiped out in Hurricane Mitch is shown at the top right.

activities was to take a woman to the hospital on our way back to Tegucigalpa because she did not stop bleeding after a tooth was pulled.

A highlight of the mission for me was to attend the nightly worship services. The preachers and worship leaders presented God's Word and many of the people recognized and responded to their spiritual need just as they sought physical help.

Our supply of Bibles was depleted while villagers were still asking for their own personal copy. It is humbling to see such value placed on something we take for granted every day.



This trip was my first to Honduras. I can see why others are drawn back again and again. The people are responsive and the need is great. The villages are so remote that unless we go to them, how else will they hear the Good News of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ?

"Our supply of Bibles was depleted while villagers were still asking for their own personal copy. It is humbling to see such value placed on something we take for granted every day."

—Martha Morris

Prayer bath opens doors for church meeting place in Ukraine

By Tim Nicholas
MBCB Broadcast Services

People in Mississippi, and Sasha Alexander, the Ukrainian church planter, had bathed in prayer the needs related to a partnership missions trip to Nikolaevka, Ukraine.

"We did not make any move literally unless we stopped and prayed," said Kiely Young, team leader.

As a result, Young said, the team encountered situations during their trip "where obviously God opened doors and gave divine appointments."

The mayor gave the group the red carpet treatment after a visit where they presented him with a Russian language Bible. He told city officials to cooperate and made the town hall available for the group to meet.

After meeting with 150 staffers at the hospital, preaching and giving testimonies, the team was invited by hospital department heads to a luncheon. For two hours the Mississippians answered questions about the Christian lifestyle.

The hospital administrator said he was excited about the possibility of the group bringing a medical/dental team next spring.

The mayor told a local theater owner he should let the group use his building. They wound up using an adjacent building which would hold 100 people. They received permission to worship there indefinitely.

The group worshiped there Easter. Young said donations are being gathered in Mississippi to make repairs to the building.

At the end of the week, 42 had professed Christ as Savior and wanted to participate in a Bible study. The theater owner was among them. The first meeting of the new congregation attracted more than 20.

A host of the group, not yet a Christian, was asked if he was ready to give his heart to Christ. He said he would. Later, group members saw he had put on a tee shirt his wife had been waiting to give him. The message in English on the shirt was "Today Jesus is in my heart. How about you?"

"There was a radiance on his face and tears were flowing down his wife's cheeks," said Young.

Besides Young, who is coordinator of evangelism at Michael Memorial Church in Gulfport, team members included Max Strange, Leakesville; Brad Arnett, Picayune; Tom Miller, Pascagoula; and Ray Spence, Carriere.

Impact Northeast — Volunteers needed to plant new churches

There is a great challenge in the Northeast to reach millions of people with the Gospel. It is a fact that 25% of our nation's population lives in the Northeast.

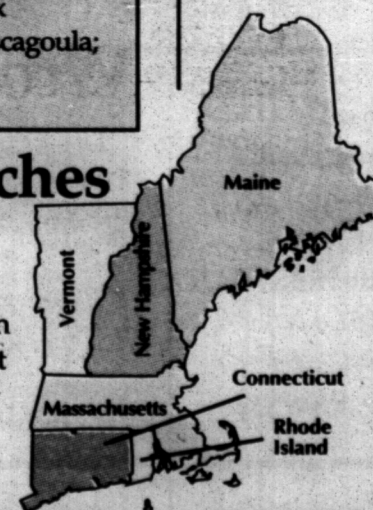
Strategists state that the best way to reach people with long-term results is to start new churches. Our desire is to see a church plant-

ing movement develop in the Northeast. This will require large numbers of volunteers.

There is the need for many styles of evangelistic outreach activities, discipling of new converts, church revitalization and a ministry to the college and university campuses.

Projects and ministries are scheduled all

year for youth and adults. The Partnership Missions Department can assist you in determining the right project for your church. Please call us at (800) 748-1651, extension 398.



Shared vision grows from Partnership

Two ambassadors from Baltimore Association in Maryland were hosted Feb. 4-6 by Copiah Association, in Hazelhurst. Conrad Burch, pastor of First Church, Lansdowne, Md., and William C. George, pastor of Patterson Park Church, Baltimore, met pastors in the area to report progress on church-to-church partnerships and explore further partnership possibilities. The pastors serve as moderator

and vice moderator, respectively, for 74 Southern Baptist churches of Baltimore City and Baltimore County.

Ted Dukes, former pastor of First Church, Crystal Springs; Jack Honea, coordinator for Mississippi NailBenders; and John McBride, director of missions for Copiah Association, arranged opportunities for the Baltimoreans to fellowship with Mississippi Baptists and look toward the future.

This summer, teams of Mississippi NailBenders will be raising a new worship center for the congregation at Lansdowne. Plans are also being made for volunteers from First Church, Crystal Springs, to join Patterson Park Church in neighborhood outreach ministries in East Baltimore.

John Draper, director of missions for Baltimore Association, said the encour-

agement of fellowship and shared vision that is growing between Copiah and Baltimore association pastors has already stimulated new hope and realization of how God wants to bless this partnership.

"We've joked some about exchanging shipments of catfish and crab," said Draper, "but who knows? We believe God will do more through our relationship than we've begun to guess."



A Honduran mom bathes her daughter at the village water pump in a community where Mississippi Baptists are building homes for people made homeless by Hurricane Mitch. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

Resources thin at Ukraine seminary

Arriving in Ukraine to teach a course at the Odessa Baptist Theological Seminary, Mississippian Fred Womack found that academic resources are fewer than those of American theology students.

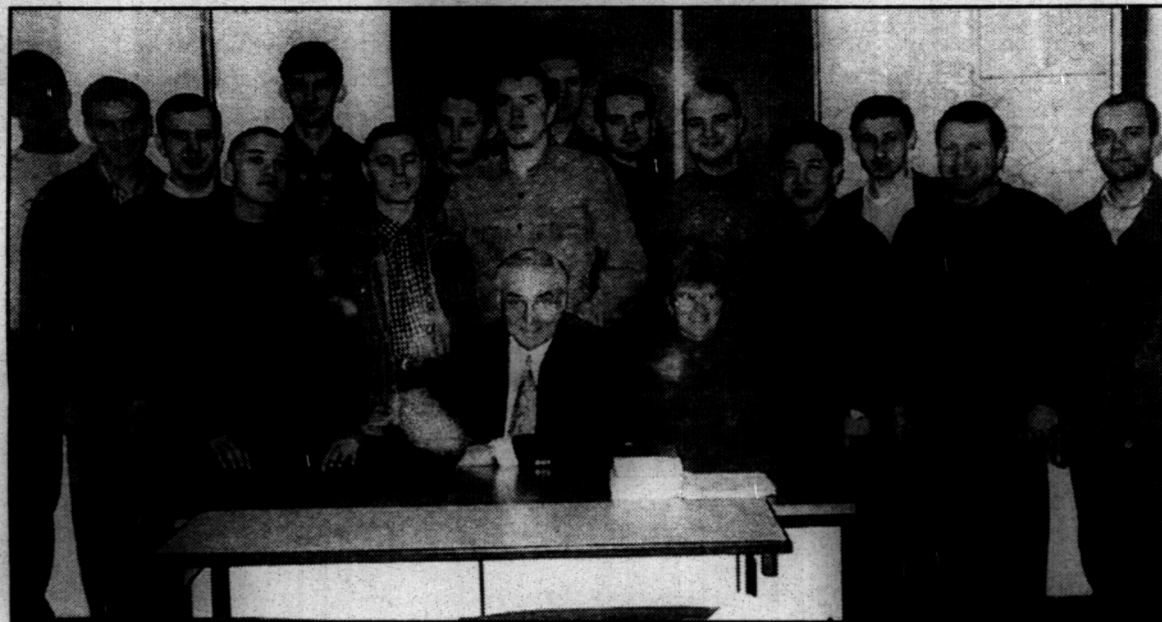
"For 70 years, the study of the Bible at the collegiate and graduate levels (or at any level in public life) was prohibited by communism," said Womack, pastor of Diamondhead Church, Diamondhead. "Neither Scripture nor religious literature was printed behind the Iron Curtain for three generations."

As a result, the Odessa Seminary contains only 17,000 volumes with 92 percent of those in English.

The language barrier slowly topples as more English-speaking teachers participate in the life of the seminary. For instance, Womack said when he began teaching "Wisdom Literature and the Prophets," not one of his 15 students could communicate with him in English.

Two weeks later, he said, half could carry on a broken conversation in English. Additionally, English is a required course for all first-year students.

The day Womack left to return to Mississippi, a visiting professor from Stone Mountain, Georgia, arrived to teach "Hermeneutics." He also speaks no Russian.



Fred Womack (seated), pastor of Diamondhead Church, Diamondhead, poses with his seminary students and translator (seated) in Odessa.

"Of course, the time will come when Western professors will not be that necessary," said Womack. Since 1989, 12 Baptist colleges, one Baptist university, and three Baptist seminaries have sprung up in Ukraine.

Said Womack, "Of the 2,200 Baptist churches in Ukraine, half were built within the past five years and in 1999 there was a 10 percent increase in Baptist believers."

He added, "The Spirit of God is greatly at work in the country."

In addition to spending three hours a day in the classroom, Womack preached at seven churches in the Odessa area.

Womack's wife, Judy, taught Bible stories to the children who were present in the congregation during the first hour of worship and were dismissed to Sunday School rooms the second hour.

Those with teaching credentials should contact the Partnership Missions Department to discover teaching opportunities in Ukraine.

Wrong box results in chicken miracle in Honduras

(This story was supplied by "Fruitful Harvest," a newsletter from Charlie Sickles, Texas Association, and his ministry. Charlie went with this team led by Gordon Enger.)

Before a medical team from Calvary Church,

Knoxville, Tenn., left for Honduras last year, a young veterinarian contacted several sources for supplies.

One supplier offered a 50-pound box of an antibiotic for a serious respiratory infection in chickens.

The vet said he would not be treating chickens.

The supplier said the box had been mislabeled and he could have it. The vet said he would take a little of it. Lacking time to repack the supplies, he took the whole box.

When he got to the village, he asked what was the greatest need. "It's our chickens. They have a respiratory infection and are all dying." He was able to treat the infected chickens and save the rest.

Mississippi Baptist Partnership Missions is a supplement to **The Baptist Record** produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's **Office of Communication.**

Contact Partnership Missions about future mission opportunities.

(800) 748-1651

(601) 968-3800

pharrell@mbcb.org



JUST FOR THE RECORD

New Home Church, Smith County, held a dedication service on June 11 for a prayer garden. The garden was a gift from Haskell and Mollie Stringer (pictured), longtime members of New Home Church. The garden was established as a memorial to their parents, who were active members during their lifetimes.



The Stringers

Women on missions and ministry of First Church, Durant, hosted a Celebration of Love on June 2. Pictured (from left) are Paige Hughes of Clinton, featured speaker; Judy Arnold, WMU director; and Ella Worrell.



Hughes, Arnold, and Worrell



A group from Shuqualak Church, Shuqualak, traveled to Benton, Tenn., on June 4-9 for their first mission trip. Through Camp Agape, a ministry of the Polk County Association, the group was linked with a local resident in need of home improvement. Pictured (from left) are Michael Presley, Walter Fields, Justin Marro, youth of the church; Ann Lockley; John Lockley; and Darren Chester, pastor.



Ground breaking at Union North Church, Collins

Ground breaking services were held recently at Union North Church, Collins. The original church building burned in 1999 after being struck by lightning. Worship

services are currently being held in a mobile chapel provided by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Joe Ratcliff is interim pastor.

Acteens of First Church, Byram, held a party for the children at The Baptist Children's Village. Pictured (from left) are Carman Byrd; Brande Lewis; Mandy Walker, leader; Erin Floyd; Tabitha Walker; Lindsey Carpenter; Sarah Catherine White; and Jessica Massingill.



Acteens of First Church, Byram

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REVIVAL DATES

Cato, Mendenhall: July 23-28; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Fred Wilson, Richland, evangelist; E.C. Harp, Florence, music; Lowell Ingram, pastor.

Ebenezer, Liberty: July 23-26; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; noon covered dish meal on the grounds; and 1:15 p.m. service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Ivy Butler, Baton Rouge, La., music; Odus Jackson, pastor.

Black Jack, Vaughan: July 23-26; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ken Anderson, Clinton, evangelist; Tommy and Carol Joy Sparkman, Clinton, music.

Pine Level, Leakesville: July 23-26; Sunday worship 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; and 1 p.m. service with the Myers family from Moselle, singing; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; David Grayson, chaplain, South Mississippi Correctional Institution and interim pastor at Neely Church, evangelist; Bill Ricks, Leakesville, music; Mitchell Osborne, pastor.

McAdams (Attala): July 23-26; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Chester Carlisle, Ethel, evangelist; Linda Cauthen, music; Jamie Moore, pastor.

Pelahatchie (Rankin): July 23-26; Barry Corbett, Kosciusko, evangelist; R.L. and Beth Sigrest, Yazoo City, music; Mike Glenn, pastor.

First, Overt: July 23-26; Sunday, 10:55 a.m. with lunch in fellowship hall to follow and 1:15 p.m. service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Alan Woodward, Ellisville, evangelist; R. V. and Linda Smith, music; Tommy Mangum, pastor.

Main Street, Mendenhall: July 23-27; regular scheduled services on Sunday; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Clark Stewart, Crystal Springs, evangelist; Glenn Floyd and New Life, music; Dewitt Mitchell, pastor.

Second, Calhoun City: July 23-28; Sunday, 7:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 11 a.m. with lunch in fellowship hall, and 7:30 p.m.; Buford Ury, evangelist; Carl Morris, pastor.

Calvary, Forest: July 23-26; Randall Creel, Lake, evangelist; Evelyn Sims and Shelia Jones, Walnut Grove, music; Martin Williams, pastor.

Mt. Zion (Simpson): July 24-28; 7:30 p.m.; Jerry Sullivan, evangelist; Mitchell Roberts, music; Joel Eavenson, pastor.

New Hope, Sumrall: July 23-28; Sunday, morning service followed by dinner on the grounds; and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Ron Etheridge, Oxford, Ala., evangelist; Kelton Ingram, New Hope Church, music for Sunday; Mon.-Fri., David Freeman, music; Richard L. Hamilton, pastor.

Tyro (Northwest): July 23-26; 7:30 p.m.; Allen Flowers, evangelist; Otho Geeslin, music director; Gary Newton, pastor.

Friendship, Brookhaven: July 23-28; Sunday, 11 a.m. followed by lunch and afternoon services; Mon.-Fri., 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; James Messer, Theodore, Ala., evangelist; Steve Walker, Pinola, music; Jimmy Houston, pastor.

Anding, Bentonia: July 23-26; Sunday, 11 a.m., noon meal, and afternoon service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Billy Dowdy, director of missions, Yazoo Association, evangelist; Glen Martin, music; Joe K. Hill, pastor.

First, Sumrall: July 23-26; Sunday, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Randall O'Brien, member of the Bible faculty at Baylor University, evangelist; Daniel Lee, Magee, music; Glenn Davis, pastor.

First, Mt. Olive: July 23-26; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gerald Buckley, pastor.

East Fork Church (Amite): July 23-28; Sunday, dinner on the grounds followed by afternoon service; weekday services, 11 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.; Larry Harvey, Kosciusko, evangelist; Danny Von Kanel, Liberty, music; Paul G. Cain, pastor.

Macedonia (Lee): July 23-28; Sunday, 6:45 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Greg Herndon, evangelist; Billy Little, music; Dwight Brown, pastor.

White Oak (Smith): July 23-28; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Ken Anderson, Sallito, evangelist; Joe Styron, Kilmichael, music.

Ludlow, Ludlow: July 23-28; Sunday, Sunday School at 10 a.m., worship at 11 a.m., lunch in fellowship hall, and afternoon service; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Mike Everett, director of missions, Scott Association, evangelist; Dwight Cooper, music; M. L. Wallace, pastor.

Chester, Ackerman: July 23-26; services will begin at 11 a.m. Sunday and 7 p.m. each night; Ray Ridgeway, Knoxville, Tenn., evangelist; Philip Cooper, pastor.

Wheeler Grove (Alcorn): July 30-Aug. 2; Sunday, 10:50 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Junior Hill, evangelist.

Sylva Rena (Yalobusha): July 30-Aug. 4; Don Wilson, director of Strategic Initiatives, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; David Taylor, Oxford, music; David Sapp, pastor.

Oakvale (Lawrence): July 30-Aug. 4; Sunday, covered dish meal follows the morning service and concert by Steve Walker at 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Clay Chancellor, Stonewall, evangelist; Steve Walker, Pinola, music; Randy Gardner, pastor.

Goodwater, Forest: Aug. 6-9; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Kevin Meador, Decatur, evangelist; Shelly Overby, music; Robin Brumfield, interim pastor.

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MC to hold commencement

Mississippi College (MC) summer graduation exercises is scheduled for 10 a.m. in the A.E. Wood Coliseum on Aug. 5. Jayne A. Burrows Sargent, superintendent of schools, Jackson Public School District, will be the guest speaker. Degrees for approximately 135 graduates will be conferred by MC President Howell W. Todd.

Staff changes

David Raddin resigned as pastor of First Church, Yazoo City, on May 8.

First Church, Belzoni, has called **George C. Johnson** as pastor effective July 2. A native of Mississippi, Johnson received his education at William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was First Church, Nettleton.

HOMEcomings

Mesa Church, Tylertown: July 23; 11 a.m. service followed by noon meal; dedication for the renovated sanctuary will be at 1:30 p.m.

Darlove, Hollandale: Aug. 6; worship, 10:30 a.m.; covered dish lunch at noon; Jack Manor Jr., guest speaker; Ron Roberts, pastor.

Second, Calhoun City: July 23; services, 10:30 a.m.; David Grumbach, message; Dan Guest, music; lunch in fellowship hall, 12-1:30 p.m.; afternoon singing 1:30 p.m. with the Blood Bought Singers; revival, July 23-28 (see revival dates); Carl Morris, pastor.

Mt. Zion (Simpson): July 23; services, 10:30 a.m. with morn-

ing worship and noon meal; Gary Strehlow, speaker; Mitchell Roberts, music; Joel Eavenson, pastor.

County Line of Dossville, (Attala): July 30; singing following the noon meal; Levon Moore, Kosciusko, speaker; Larry Burchfield, Kosciusko, music.

Parkway, Clinton: July 30; 10 a.m.; special worship celebration followed by lunch; Bill Causey, guest speaker; for more information call (601) 924-9912.

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GREENS WERE FIRST

Editor:

On page four of the June 8 issue in the article entitled, "New Missionaries Prove Age No Barrier to Service," the following statement was made, "It may have been the first time since the (International Mission Board) was founded in 1845 that parents were appointed alongside their adult children."

Actually, there has been at least one previous occasion in which parents and children were appointed at the same time. In 1979, John G. (Jack) Green and his wife Mary Edna were appointed at the same time as their daughter and son-in-law, the Coggins.

The Greens were appointed to South Korea. The Coggins were appointed to Argentina.

Bill Barrett
Lexington

METHOD DISCONCERTING

Editor:

The method by which revision to the Baptist Faith and Message (BF&M) was handed to the delegates at the Orlando meeting was disconcerting.

The committee charged with this endeavor did contain, as related, some "sterling members," but this committee of

sterling minds certainly took a peculiarly imprudent route to the Orlando convention.

Unlike their 1963 predecessors, this committee's procedure for revision, which was secretive and obscure, gave the impression they had something to camouflage.

Beyond the secrecy, why have a revised document that speaks for mainstream Southern Baptists when mainstream Southern Baptists were not given the chance to speak and contribute?

Something in me says this may not have been entirely intentional, but the rest of me says this kind of anti-Baptist action is something we just have to endure in the new climate of top-down leadership.

The removal of the concepts of soul competency and priesthood of the believer was an error of monumental proportions. Again, I want to believe their removal was unintentional but the committee was too laden with Baptist-educated minds to convince me it was anything but an unintentional attempt to water down those coveted Baptist principles.

The committee's last-minute amendment on the convention floor including these principles not only revealed an enormous miscalculation, but also, to

their surprise and our glee, confirmed that the treasure of these concepts among the convention's mainstream were well-entrenched.

The committee would have known this if they had just asked us, the sterling members of the convention they serve.

Paul L. Smith, pastor
First Church, Calhoun City

EQUAL VALUE?

Editor:

Isn't it wonderful that God, who pre-ordained certain people to heaven and the riff-raff to hell, also placed them in positions of authority over their little kingdoms?

Then he gave them the wisdom to correct the misconceptions of ignorant country boys such as I, who are totally confused by many verses and even some whole books of the Bible.

I thought everyone placed varied degrees of usefulness on different parts of the subject book.

Now that I know 1 Ch. 28:18 is of equal value to John 3:16, I can rest easier. Instead of using the long "For God so loved the world..." in a witnessing attempt, I can substitute the easier "At the Parbar on the west there were four at the highway and two at the Parbar" (NASB).

Since the venerable Al Mohler literally lives the book of Ephesians, he can also comply with the Song of Solomon.

The catch is our despotic American government might not condone his kidnapping of the fiancée of one of his subjects to add another concubine to his harem.

His living proof of validity might relieve the tensions of this old reprobate who cannot read the Song without mentally comparing it to a series of poems entitled, "Dirty Dan McGrew."

Since facial expressions can alter the meaning of ordinary conversation and are not seen by anyone reading this letter, be

reminded that this bulge in my cheek is not a dip of Skoal.

Donald R. Windham
Bay Springs

COMMENDS POWELL

Editor:

I thought the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in Orlando was a very good one.

I had hoped the Resolutions Committee would have expressed a word of appreciation to the late William A. "Bill" Powell, who went to be with the Lord this past spring.

Powell was the voice crying in the wilderness long before Paul Pressler and Paige Patterson came on the scene.

Pressler said in his book, A Hill On Which to Die, the following: "The conservative movement owes a tremendous debt to Bill Powell. Without his diligence, his research, and his tenacity, this movement never would have gotten underway."

"Bill gave up his security at the Home Mission Board in order to pursue his dream of returning our institutions to their biblical roots."

"Bill loved the Lord, he loved God's truth, and he gave of himself unreservedly to see God's will done. However, as in many other cases, the one who starts a movement is not always the one who sees it to its completion."

"All of us can become battle-weary and battle-worn. Bill had been fighting the battle for a long time and had many scars."

We so easily forget those who have made such a tremendous sacrifice in order to restore our convention to its original roots.

(Former Home Mission Board president) Larry Lewis preached a sermon at Powell's memorial service that should be required reading in every college and seminary in the SBC.

Floyd L. Battles
Rome, Georgia



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

A Word from Junior Hill and Mississippi Pastors

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"I have known Jackie Kay since he was pastor at Grace Memorial, Gulfport, MS. We had him in revival with us at Mendenhall. Decisions for Christ were made, our attendance was superb, and Jackie's personality and preaching style were enthusiastically received by our congregation. Jackie served as a pastor for twenty-five years. He is academically trained, upapologetically conservative theologically, and has a fabulous sense of humor. Because of therapeutic healing of "spiritual brokenness" in his own life, Jackie knows how to relate with hurting and questing lives. I will not hesitate to invite him again."

Dr. Kermit McGregor, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Mendenhall, MS
President of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, 2000

"It is a delight for me to recommend Dr. Jackie Kay as a unique revivalist-evangelist. He was with us at Brandon. Jackie is a dynamic preacher of God's Word. His messages are grounded in Scripture and practical in application. Jackie has the gift of encouragement and encourages both pastor and people. Any church will be stronger for having him. He communicates with a sense of humor that causes people to listen. His messages exalt Jesus and consequently lifts the spirit of the hearers. I heartily endorse this man and his message."

Dr. Gene Henderson, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Brandon, MS

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EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Salvation vs. judgment

Revelation 14:1-20

By Tommy Bufkin

The young man stood between his lawyers with his head bowed. His parents sat behind him clinging to each other, the mother softly weeping. The time had come. A hush came over the courtroom. The judge looked up from the papers before him and cleared his voice. It was time for judgment.

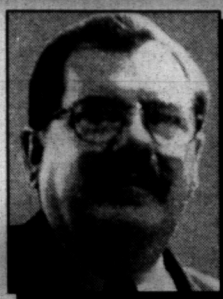
One day there will be a final victory. Unbelievers will face the certainty of God's judgment while believers enjoy their final reward.

Believers belong to God (v. 1). The previous vision presented a terrible time for believers with three fierce enemies opposing them. Now the scene changes to one of victory.

The Lamb is clearly the triumphant Christ. Mount Zion was the highest point in Jerusalem and the site of the Temple. It was seen as the dwelling place of God, a place of enthronement and safety.

Most see this as a heavenly place. The 144,000 are the same ones identified earlier (7:4) carrying the mark of ownership by God on their foreheads. It is a sign that believers eternally belong to him and are secure. This is contrasted with the mark of the beast (13:16-18) which is the number 666 on the right hand or forehead.

Believers worship Jesus (vv. 3-4). This new song is perhaps a song of victory and deliverance



Bufkin

that only those who had been through the experience could sing. They had won the right by their perseverance.

The 144,000 are said to not be "defiled with women." Taken literally, this would mean they were all men and were celibate. Another interpretation is that spiritual celibacy is meant here.

Worshiping other gods was often seen as spiritual adultery, so these would be believers (whether male or female) who have refused to worship other gods or bow down to idols. It may also simply mean that the believers were pure and did not engage in immoral lifestyles.

These redeemed ones were the "first fruits" — a special, holy offering to the Lamb.

Unbelievers face God's wrath (vv. 9-11). You become like the object of your devotion or worship. Those who worship the beast are identified

with his mark. They have freely chosen this path and, thus, God's wrath. This wrath will be expressed in torment with fire and smoldering sulfur. This recalls the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah for their wickedness.

Martyrs of the church had burned and felt the pain for a time, but this fire of torment will never burn out. It will be a restless eternity.

Believers enjoy rest (vv. 12-15). The saints had proved their steadfastness and endurance by keeping their faith in Christ and obeying God's command. They never gave up even in terrible struggle.

The divine message is a blessing on the faithful. This is one of seven beatitudes in the Book of Revelation (see also 1:3, 16:15, 19:9, 20:6, 22:7, 14).

The fate of the believer is very different from the unbeliever. While the latter will suffer restless torment, the believer will find rest. "Labors" trans-

lates a word that means "to work to the point of exhaustion." The world may not notice or may even ridicule the good work of the saints but God remembers. This is an encouragement to the saint who often struggles in obscurity.

There is some question as to the identity of the "son of man." The phrase means simply that he was human. However, this was Jesus' favorite way to refer to himself and most see this as the victorious Christ.

Some say it is an angel or some other figure because Christ would not take orders from an angel. The angel, however, is only bringing the command of the Father.

The harvest indicates an ending. It was time to execute judgment which is in the hands of the Son. All the conditions are right. God, being the only One who knows the time, calls for harvest.

Bufkin is pastor of Mt. Zion Church, Rankin Association.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Characteristics of believers: Responsibilities

Ephesians 5:1-5, 21-29; 6:1-4

By Juanita West

In our daily lives, we have duties and responsibilities whether at home or at work. As a member of the family of God, we are given rights and privileges, which also bring responsibilities for living the spirit-filled life.

Responsibilities to God (5:1-5). In chapter four of Ephesians, Paul challenges the followers to "Put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness" (4:24, NKJ). To have this lifestyle, the believers are to "be imitators of God" (5:1). The Christian responsibility is to grow in Christ as we imitate our Father.

One of the directions Paul

gives to the Ephesian Christians, thus to all Christians, is to "walk in love" (v. 2) with the same spirit of service and sacrifice that Christ gave for his children.

By imitating Christ, Christians avoid the pressures and influences of sexual immoralities and acts of greed which were prevalent in Paul's day and still dominate today's society. In verse 5, Paul admonishes the believers: "For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and God" (NKJ).

In later verses, Paul teaches three other responsibilities we have to God. In verse 8, he



West

encourages believers to "walk in light," and in verses 17-18 he exhorts them to "walk in wisdom" and "be filled with the Spirit" (NKJ).

Responsibilities to spouses (5:21-29). After believers have been filled with the Spirit, Paul states that they will constantly praise the Lord and "[give] thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God" (5:20-21, NKJ).

According to the "Notes" in the NKJ, "The Greek word for submitting does not refer to being under the absolute control of another but to voluntarily place oneself under the authority of another" (p. 1990). Through Paul's words, we are reminded that we are to live a life drawn from Christ's example of humility and servanthood.

Husbands and wives must recognize their positions of

responsibility in the marriage. Marriages are to honor God. "Wives submit to your husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as also Christ is the head of the church" (5:22-23, NKJ). The focus in these verses is wives' submission to Christ and husbands' leading as Christ leads the church.

In his study of Ephesians, Wiersbe states: "Submission to Christ and to one another, is the only way to overcome selfishness, for when we submit, the Holy Spirit can fill us and enable us to love one another in a sacrificial, sanctifying, satisfying way — the way Christ loves the church" (Be Rich, p. 146).

Responsibilities to parents and children (6:1-4). Paul speaks next of family relationships. He instructs children to obey their parents "in the Lord" (6:1). He then quotes the fifth commandment: "Honor your father and mother" (6:2).

Wiersbe says, "The child

must learn early to obey father and mother, not only because they are his parents, but also because God has commanded it to be so. Disobedience to parents is rebellion against God" (Be Rich, p. 152).

Paul turns his attention to parents' responsibilities to their children. First, they must not provoke their children to anger. "Parents should not be unreasonably severe with children or ridicule them" (6:4, Notes, NKJ). Parents should, however, nurture their children "in the training and the admonition of the Lord" (6:4, NKJ).

By providing their children with the proper training and encouragement, parents will have children who want to obey.

"The discipline and instruction of the Lord is what God can do in the children's life through faithful Christian parents" (Layman's Bible Book commentary, vol. 21, p. 134).

West is a member of Calvary Church, Newton.

LIFE AND WORK

God reveals truth

Rom. 1:18-20; John 14:6-11; 16:13-15; 2 Tim. 3:15-17

By Matt Loving

How does God make his truth known? How can you know what's true when there are so many competing voices? Life is full of decisions. Knowing the truth is most vital when making decisions about values.

God is the source of all truth and has revealed his truth to us. He has the truth to answer all our questions. Many people try to take parts of experiencing God's truth by focusing only on knowledge about him or only about how they feel his spirit.

We are called by God as believers to love him with all

our heart, soul, and mind. Having an understanding of the basic ways that God reveals truth to us will provide a firm foundation in your life so that you can love him in such a manner.

A God-given worldview will involve a readjustment of the lens by which you view all things and an embracing of all the ways that the Lord has revealed himself to us.

Partially through nature (Rom. 1:18-20). Within these verses we can find that God has revealed evidences of his eternal majesty and power through nature. This revelation



Loving

serves to inspire people to know more about God and his truth.

Furthermore, Paul explains that because of sin people turn to worship the created things instead of the Creator. We must guard our hearts from doing this on any level.

Personally in Jesus (John 14:6-11). Jesus revealed God the Father through his words and actions. His life on earth reflected an intimate and continuous relationship with his Father.

Jesus plainly and boldly proclaimed that no one comes to God except by him. If we really know him, not just about him, we will know the Father as well. This truth will keep you from being swayed by false teachings for Jesus is "the author and perfecter of our faith" (Heb. 12:2).

Continuously by the Spirit (John 16:13-15). In this passage,

Jesus continued to explain how God was going to reveal truth once he would leave the earth.

The Holy Spirit enables believers to know and understand God's truth as Jesus revealed it. The Holy Spirit always focuses on bringing glory to God, not to anyone or anything else. Thus, believers can depend upon the Spirit to determine what is true about God and how to apply God's truth to all aspects of life. For when we turn to the Lord "the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom" (2 Cor. 3:16-17).

Authoritatively in the Scriptures (2 Tim. 3:15-17). God inspired the infallible Holy Scriptures so that believers can know his truth that guides to salvation, can have direction for life, and can be equipped for every good work.

Kay Arthur wrote that "if the Word of God does not agree with the counsel you are receiv-

ing, either in specific teaching or in principle, then the counsel is not from God... it is vital that you know God's Word and that you allow it to dwell in you richly. We need to know the Word of God so that it can keep us from ungodly counsel which would lead us into ungodly reasoning and unbiblical behavior" (Lord, Heal My Hurts, pg. 52).

Jesus' call is to "come" and to follow him, willing to leave all behind. Are you really doing that?

The four points in this lesson reveal how God reveals his truth, all working together and not in isolation from one another. Be in a continual state of teachability. Hunger to learn from God's Word. Let those truths transform from you inside out, and the Holy Spirit will take you deeper in the grace of God. You will know the truth and it will set you free!

Loving is minister of youth at Oak Hill Church, Poplarville.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

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e-mail: bcv1@misnet.com

Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

APRIL 1-30, 2000 MEMORIALS

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Nancy L. King
Mr. E. J. Williams
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas David Neely
Paul Williams
Dr. Jack Q. Causey
Rev. T. E. Williams
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph P. Williams
Mr. S. L. Wilson
Beezy Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. R. V. Page
Hugh Winstead Family
Mrs. Janeiro L. Cranage
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Mr. & Mrs. Lowell T. Wood
Herbert N. Worley
Mr. & Mrs. R. W. Baskin
Max Young
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond L. Craig Jr.
Mrs. Lela Young
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MAY 1-31, 2000 HONORS

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Mrs. Elizabeth Cockrell
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Elnar Browder
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James Wesley Collier
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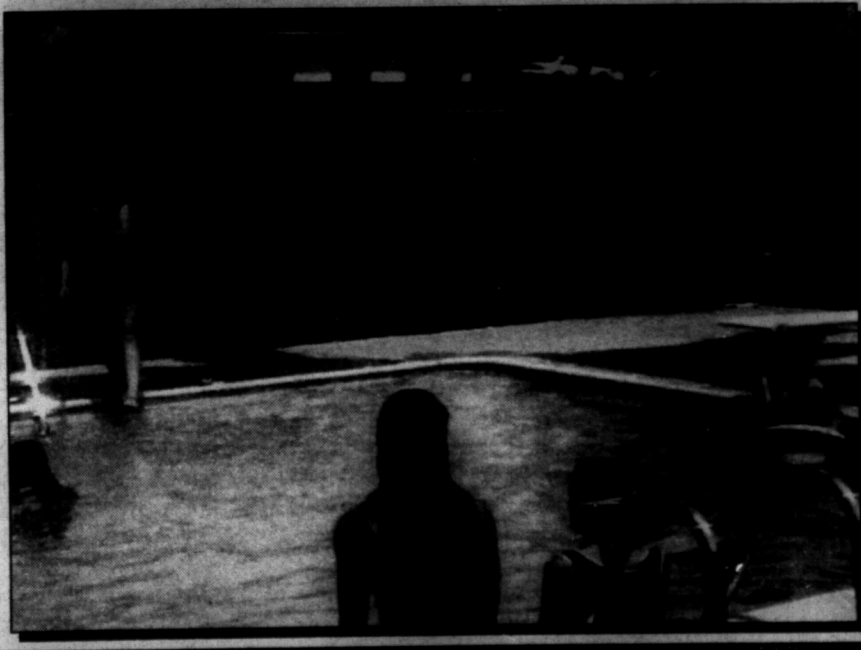
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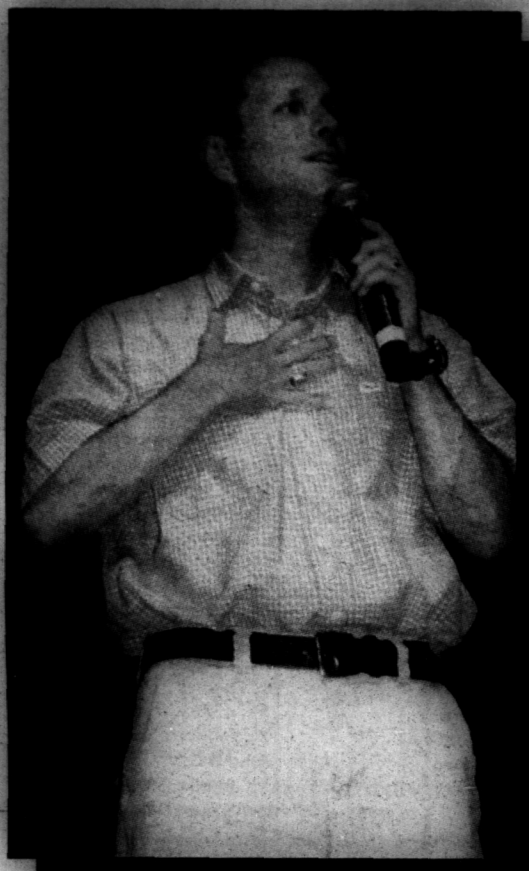
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Miss Connie Jackson
Mitchell James
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Ms. Alice Davis & Cindy.
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Larry, Jerome, Randy, Richard.
T. K.,
Tommy, Tim, & Dave
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Dr. Sam Johnson
Rev. & Mrs. Howard T.
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Mr. Ab Joiner
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Mr. Paul Jones, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Champion
E. N. Jones
Deer Creek Baptist Church
Mrs. Ethelyn K. Jones
Liberty Baptist Church

BCV Summer 2000

Children and recreation staff splash
away the summer heat.



Year 2000 Youth Night a big hit with teens



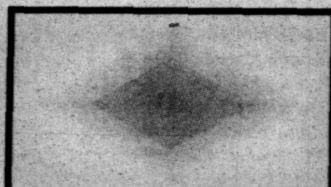
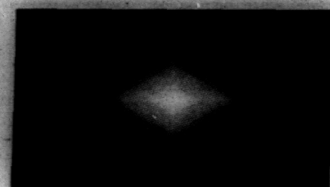
ADDRESSING YOUTH — Greg Matte, founder and director of Breakaway Ministries at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas, appeals to young people gathered July 14 in the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson for the 2000 Mississippi Baptist Youth Night. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



PRAISE TIME — Soloist Lauren Enswiler of Byram praises God through song July 14 during the 2000 Mississippi Baptist Youth Night at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson. Enswiler performed with Christian vocalist Chris Tomlin of Houston, Texas, and his band. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION — Christian vocalist Chris Tomlin of Houston, Texas, performs before an enthusiastic crowd at the 2000 Mississippi Baptist Youth Night July 14 at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson. More than 6,500 young people from around the state participated in the annual event — the largest youth gathering in Mississippi. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



Potter books draw scrutiny of Christian leaders

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)— It's not just the release of a fourth Harry Potter book that increasingly will force Christians to deal with the

overarching occult themes in the series about a fictional teenager who attends a school for witchcraft and wizardry. A movie from Warner Bros.

will begin production next year in England and, according to The Wall Street Journal, big profits are envisioned from sequels, TV broadcast rights, cartoon

spin-offs, home video sales, theme park rides, and interactive games. Nearly 50 deals with toy makers, worth \$1 billion, already have been cut, according to The Washington Post.

Focus on the Family and the American Family Association were at the forefront of issuing cautionary comments on "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire."

On Focus on the Family's Internet site, www.family.org, an essay, "The Trouble with Harry," was posted.

The American Family Association, in a news release, described the "Harry Potter" series as "books that promote witchcraft and wizardry."

The Donald Wildmon-led AFA likewise noted, "within the conservative community, there are varying opinions on whether Christians should be concerned about the content. ... Since the books first came on the market, many Christians have voiced strong objection to their use of magic and the occult and its frightening passages. But others disagree."

"If they do read these books, help them to see the deeper messages," Christian columnist Charles Colson advised. "Contrast the mechanical magic in the Potter books to the kind of real-life witchcraft the Bible condemns — the kind that encourages involvement with supernatural evil. Help them, as well, to see how the author presents evil as evil, and good as good."

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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OBQ FURJ GUOYY ZAPM
UVZ, OBQ GUOYY GPAID-
SR UVZ, OBQ GUOYY
GCVF ICAB UVZ, OBQ
GUOYY MVYY UVZ: OBQ
FUR FUV DQ QOJ UR
GUOYY DVGR OSOVB.

ZODM FRB: FUVDFJ-TAID

Clue: Z = M

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Twenty-Two: Forty-Two.



Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

LifeAnswers

So many of our church's children are reading Harry Potter books, and I'm concerned because I think they are occult-oriented. What is your opinion?

The Harry Potter books by J. K. Rowling have become a sensation. Children are reading them and so are parents — the real key. As with other modern items (the computer, for instance), parental involvement is essential. Some people have compared these books to C.S. Lewis' *The Chronicles of Narnia*, and others see them as from the occult. In my review of these books I find them very imaginative and creative, like the *Chronicles*. However, the aspect of worship of God is missing. I do not find the occult being promoted or encouraged. There is a struggle between the

good and bad and the characters use spells and magic to accomplish their desired goals. As I have looked through the books I was struck with the similarity to the *Bewitched* television series of the late 60's and early 70's. In that show, Samantha used her witchcraft to get out of messes, but there was not the dark side of Satan worship that we have today. In the Potter series I think you find a modern day "Samantha" using fantasy and adventure to overcome the evil of his world. Now before you go and say I support the whole series, I want you to know that I strongly feel that parents need to explain to their child that such stories are fantasy. Life is not accomplished by flying on brooms and casting spells on others. Power is not accom-

plished by zapping one's opponents, but by praying for them and looking for the deep needs of the hurting person. We need to teach our children the ways of God so they are able to handle input from the outside world, like *Bewitched* and the Harry Potter books (and such input will come, unless you plan to lock your children away forever). I strongly feel that as parents we are the guardians of our children's minds. We need to constantly help them understand God's truth in relation to the ways of the world, so they can realistically approach the difficulties of life and not be looking for the escape routes and easy roads. The glittering enticements of the world may change from generation to generation, but our role as Christian parents does not.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. In central Mississippi, Ron Mumbower can be heard from 9-10 a.m. each Wednesday on WHJT-FM 93.5. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.